

SENATE—Friday, October 22, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign of our beloved Nation, we express our profound gratitude for citizenship in the United States of America. We want to do this in a way that does not overlook Your watchful care of all peoples of the Earth. Today we conclude this Character Counts Week with renewed dedication to the character trait of citizenship.

Forgive us, Lord, for taking for granted the privileges of being citizens of this land which You have blessed so bountifully. We seldom think about our freedoms of worship and speech and assembly and the freedom to vote. Today, we praise You for our representative democracy. Thank You for the privilege of serving in government. Help the Senators and all of us who labor with and for them to work today with a renewed sense of awe and wonder that You have chosen them and us to be part of the political process to make this good Nation great.

May a renewed spirit of patriotism sweep across our land. Help the children to learn that an important aspect of love for You is loyalty to our country. We dedicate ourselves to right wrongs and to shape political programs that assure opportunity and justice for all Americans. So today as we pledge allegiance to our flag, may our hearts express joy: This is our own, our native land. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE DEWINE, a Senator from the State of Ohio, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the sub-Saharan Africa free trade bill. Any Senator desiring to debate the motion to pro-

ceed is encouraged to come to the floor to make their statement. As announced last night, there will be no rollcall votes today or during Monday's session of the Senate. The next vote will be on the morning of Tuesday, October 26. The Senate may also consider appropriations conference reports or any other legislative or executive matters that can be cleared.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 434, which the clerk will report by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 434, an act to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise in support of the motion to proceed to H.R. 434. As Senator GRASSLEY, chairman of the Finance Committee's Trade Subcommittee, indicated last night, I will offer a manager's amendment—to be titled the Trade and Development Act of 1999—as a substitute for the House-passed language.

That act will include the Senate Finance Committee-reported bills on Africa, an expansion of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, an extension of the Generalized System of Preferences, and the reauthorization of our Trade Adjustment Assistance programs. I want to explain the intent behind these measures and my reasons for supporting their passage.

Let me begin with Africa. No continent suffers more from poverty, hunger, and disease. Those problems have been compounded by colonialism, cold war politics, corruption, social division, and environmental disaster. Our daily news records the desperate images of starving mothers and their children, small boys employed as the dogs of war, and the slaughter of wildlife as poachers attempt to eke out a living on the bare plains of Africa.

The result has been the lowest living standards and the lowest life expectancy of any in the world. Those conditions have too often reinforced a dangerous cycle of war, political instability, and economic decay.

What the daily news has too often overlooked are the efforts of so many of our African neighbors to restore political freedom, guarantee human rights, and foster economic hope.

In the past decade, we have seen an end to apartheid in South Africa and the peaceful transition to black majority rule. We have seen Nelson Mandela go from political prisoner to president.

We have witnessed the more recent restoration of economic links between South Africa and the former "front-line states," between Uganda and Tanzania, and between the sub-Saharan region and the rest of the world. We have benefited from the example of courage and dedication that many sub-Saharan African states have provided as they have confronted the daunting challenges they face.

We have also seen nothing short of a revolution in economic thinking. Africa has too frequently been the beneficiary of bad economic advice from well-meaning international institutions, technical advisers, and even creditors.

That advice often encouraged crushing debt, confiscatory taxation, growth-killing devaluations, inefficient state-owned enterprises, and economic mismanagement. For too long, our African neighbors have been encouraged to adopt models of economic development that have, in fact, wasted their most valuable resource—their people.

That era has now come to an end. The new Africa is tackling its own problems and the new Africa can be the master of its own economic destiny.

It is in that context that the African title of the Trade and Development Act is relevant. It offers tariff preferences to sub-Saharan Africa that will encourage economic foundation on which the eligible countries can build their own future. Equally important, it reflects a belief in the power of markets, incentives to investment, and human potential.

That approach enjoys broad bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress and by the President, who mentioned the bill as one of his top foreign policy and trade priorities in this year's State of the Union Address. As the chart behind me attests, the legislation also enjoys broad support in the business community, among U.S. and foreign opinion leaders, as well as, most importantly, from the potential African beneficiaries themselves.

Numerous U.S. businesses and business groups have expressed their support for moving this legislation. That group includes companies as diverse as Oracle, Cargill, General Motors, Enron, and The Limited.